United Nations A/54/838

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 April 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 97 (d) and 101 (b)

Macroeconomic policy questions: science and technology for development

Operational activities for development: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Letter dated 3 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Seoul Accord adopted at the Forum on South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology, which was organized by the Government of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Development Programme in Seoul from 14 to 17 February 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 97 (d) and 101 (b).

(*Signed*) **Sun** Joun-yung
Permanent Representative

00-38189 (E) 070400

Annex to the letter dated 3 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General

Forum on South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology

14-17 February 2000
Seoul, Republic of Korea

The Seoul Accord

We, the participants of this Forum on South-South Co-operation in Science and Technology(FOSAT), meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 14 to 17 February 2000, recognizing the enormous challenges of development facing the countries of the South, convinced of the vast opportunities that science and technology offer in meeting theses challenges through South-South cooperation and committed to a comprehensive programme for the effective and sustained implementation of the objectives of this Accord, hereby

CONSIDER THAT

- Science and technology be promoted and accorded high priority as a means of addressing basic human needs including poverty alleviation and human development.
- Critical individual and collective developmental capacities of the South be built and sustained taking full advantage of the benefits of advances in science and technology.
- Focus be placed on existing and new modes of cooperation, especially in areas such as biotechnology, information and communication technology, and renewable energy.
- Viable mechanisms be established or strengthened to foster South-South science and technology cooperation.

RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Establish a South-South network, linking R&D institutions and other centers of excellence in order to enhance our collective efforts in the generation and use of knowledge.

2. Establish effective mechanisms to facilitate technological cooperation among firms in each of our countries in order to be more competitive internationally, among which setting up information systems aimed at identifying common projects and needs where collective actions would lower the costs for all participants would be particularly valuable.

3. Increase the human capital base by pooling efforts on education and relevant training programmes, the area of largest South-South cooperation today.

4. Share experiences regarding the contribution of science and technology to the alleviation of poverty in our countries and expand on their applications.

5. Establish strategic South-South programmes of R&D on the development of vaccines, drugs and diagnostics for the prevention and cure of major communicable diseases in the South, such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV.

6. Devise and support mechanisms that would enable countries of the South to pool their technical, institutional and financial resources to undertake and catalyze South-South cooperation in science and technology for development.

We thank the Government of the Republic of Korea, the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) and its Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Development Countries for sponsoring and organizing this important forum.